



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2016

The BUZZ WORD



A laugh is a smile that bursts

THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
www.vvh.vermont.gov
Click on About Our Home
Click on Newsletters
- ♦ Email
- ♦ Mailing List

Please contact:

The Buzz Word Editor
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

(802) 447-6510

Email: Barbara.Fitzgerald@vermont.gov

*Honoring
Those Who Have
Served*

DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are donating:

Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members
Furniture
Haircuts
Clothing
Other personal needs

Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation
Supplies
Equipment

Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment
Large purchase

Activities Fund:

Entertainment

Music & Memory Fund:

iPods
Headphones
iTunes cards



Donations for the Veterans



L to R: Col. Al Faxon, COO, Betty Roark, Brother Robert, Shelly Steiner, and Melissa Jackson, CEO.



Brother Robert modeling one of the many donations that came in for the Veterans.

The Vermont Veterans' Home would also like to recognize Dick Steiner, Ken Farah, Mark Benton, Ms. Jacki Laszlo, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Daniels, Dr. Dennis Hodgdon, DDS, Dr. Wesley Baker, DDS, Ms. Barry Silver and Bennington Price Chopper. Thank you for your generosity.

Chaplain's Corner...



Howdy Folks,

The excitement of the season is over, all the advertising, commercialism and hype of the Christmas and New Year holidays have come to an abrupt end. Couldn't help but notice throughout the entire time, there was little acknowledgement or recognition of what Christmas is all about. So many people, even Christians avoided the term "Merry Christmas" but expressed Happy Holidays. The emphasis seemed to be on finding the right gifts and arranging a New Year's Eve Party or deciding what our New Year's resolutions will be.

Let us not forget that God was and is the reason for the season, and this gift was one of salvation to all who would accept it. How quick we are to forget God's existence and presence in our lives and return to "doing it our own way". Also, let us remember God's blessings of 2015, sure, there were lots of sad times and difficulties to cope with, but God was always there to lift us up and give us peace.

Soon that wonderful Vermont maple syrup will be running and the fifth season (mud) will arrive, then a beautiful Spring of colors. I can't wait.

Prayers to everyone for a peaceful and joyful 2016.

God Bless and don't forget to prayer for our troops.

Ken Coonradt, Chaplain



Williams College Men's Lacrosse



These young men brought donations to the Home, took a tour of the facility and then spent some time chatting away with the Veterans and Members. They are a great group of young men and we are thankful they took some time out of their day to stop by and say hi!





VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

**325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on insuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.

VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.

For any Further Questions Please Contact:

**Mary Ryan, Executive Assistant
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802-447-6523**



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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From the Administrator...
Melissa Jackson

February is a busy legislative month for The Vermont Veterans' Home. During the first week of February, I provided testimony to various legislative committees regarding our fiscal year 2017 operating budget. In recent years the facility's budget has come under increased scrutiny as our request for State General Funds has increased.

The facility has a budget of very high fixed costs, 82% of our \$22.2 million budget, leaving 18% left for us to control. We have reviewed our expenditures to ensure they are in-line with our census but as we all know the cost of healthcare is only going up, therefore our dependence on State General Funds has also increased.

Repeatedly we have been asked what makes the Veterans' Home so special or why does the State need a Veterans' Home. We have received many letters and emails supporting the home and our mission. I ask that each of you reach out to your local Senator and Congressman to tell them why the Home is so important and why the State should continue to support the Veterans who live here. A quick email, letter or phone call would help to spread the word about the Vermont Veterans' Home.

Take Care,

Melissa



National Days

Did you know anyone can declare a National Day? What National Day would you declare? Here is a small list of silly national days in February.

February 2:

National Heavenly Hash Day

February 4:

National Thank a Mailman Day

February 7:

National Fettuccine Alfredo Day

February 15:

National Gumdrop Day

February 16:

National Do A Grouch a Favor Day

February 22:

National Cook a Sweet Potato Day

February 26:

National Tell a Fairy Tale Day

February 28:

National Public Sleeping Day



Valentine's Day Facts

💖 In 1537, England's King Henry VII officially declared Feb. 14 the holiday of St. Valentine's Day.

💖 About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year.

💖 In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who would be their Valentine. They would wear this name pinned onto their sleeves for one week for everyone to see. This was the origin of the expression "to wear your heart on your sleeve."

💖 Over \$1 billion worth of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day in the U.S.

💖 189 million stems of roses are sold in the U.S. on Valentine's Day.

💖 220,000 is the average number of wedding proposals on Valentine's Day each year.

Donations

On behalf of the Veterans/Members, we sincerely thank the following for their generous donations.

Renee Nooney
Barbara Collins
Karen Degreenia
Stella Stevens
C. Thompson
Kenneth & Elaine Coonradt
Philip Sherwin
Marlene G. Black & Tom Ganse
Bennington Lions Club
Adoniram Lodge #42
Hyde Park VFW Post 7779
American Legion Green Mountain Post #1 AL Riders
The Beatrice Forrest Foundation
Brattleboro Chapter D.A.R.
Imagine Nation Books, LTD BDA Books are Fun
Center For Restorative Justice
In Memory of Richard Bush
Mrs. Linda Bush
In Memory of Ruth Whitman
Tim Whitman
In Memory of William Congdon
Susan Congdon
In Memory of Bernard Murray
Bruce and Jill Peterson
VAOT Bennington Garage
Jane-Rita Rinsonneault
William Jr.
Patricia Main

Henry Sausville & Wendy Dickie
Barbara Champney
Joan Ryan
John & Sue Cole
Francis & Diane Roy
R. Arnold Ricks
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cole
Charles & Barbara Downing
Hira & Solon Rhode
Robert & Denise Short
Mary King
In Memory of Anthony Garzione
Stafford Nieces & Nephews
In Memory of Florence Santo
Ann Fair
Linn Wilson
Terese Comar
James & Lodie Colvin
Beverly McCoy
James and Lucy Doyon
Maydene & Cheryl Mort
Paul Hurlburt, Jr.
Claire McDonald Harvey
In Memory of Richard Wood
Helen Wood
In Memory of Edward Prescott
William Mitchell II & Dawn Farnam
George, Carol & Anna Nickerson



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesdays at 2:30 pm

Located in the Chapel at the Vermont Veterans' Home

For adults living with loss due to a death. Find comfort, coping skills and support Confidentiality is always respected. No fee to attend this group.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 1:00-2:00

A. Luke Crispe Room

If you have questions, please contact: Bill MacMillan at 802-447-6524

ALS SUPPORT GROUP

***Has been postponed until Spring**

Namaste Room on American Way

Please contact Christina Cosgrove, 802-447-2792, for more information.



*From Deputy Administrator...
Colonel Al Faxon*



I recently revisited a presentation on the Ho Chi Minh Trail that I received a couple of years ago from a Vietnam Veteran friend of mine. The pictures and observations made me think of our Veterans who live in the Vermont Veterans' Home. The pictures were engaging, seemingly accurately describing an area in Vietnam that several of you warriors are very familiar with.

Remarkably Vietnam has a vibrant economy today, and this economy is bustling because the Vietnamese people learned what freedom is from you! They learned that conscientious effort and good old hard work can make you self-sufficient. They learned this from the stories you voiced about home in America, and by the determined effort you showed during the war.

Through your military service you have participated in defending freedom both here, and around the globe.

It is important you recognize your efforts and unselfishness, continue to realize benefits and positively impact the countries you served in.

Thanks for stepping up!

S/F

AF



Donation



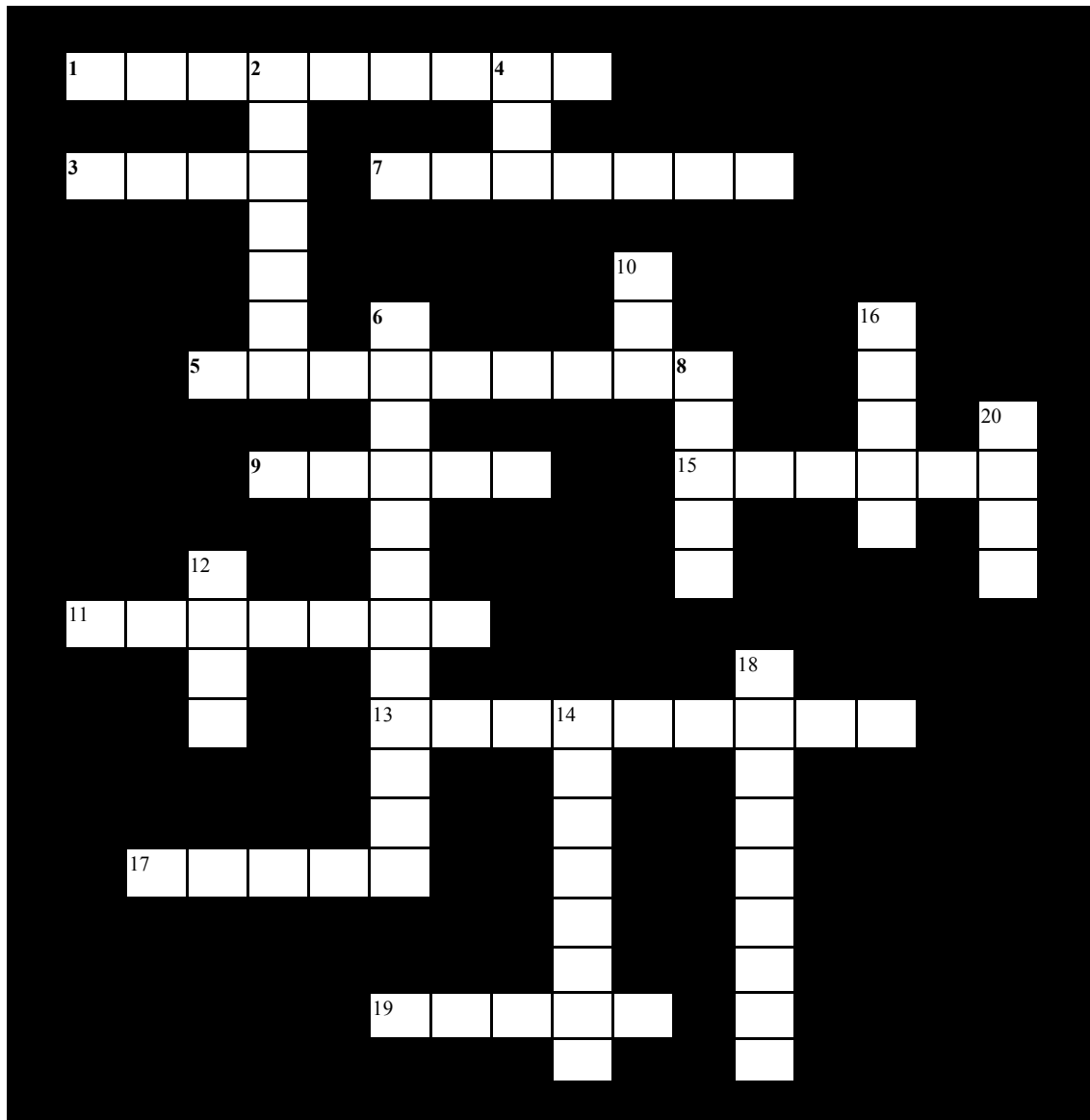
Henry Simpatico (R) gives Col. Al Faxon, COO a donation on behalf of the Lions Club.

Entertainment Coming Soon

**Brian Zapel
One Man Band**



***Sunday, February 21, 2016
2:00 PM
Location: Patriot Hall***



ACROSS

- 1) Baked Potato Topping
- 3) Work For Harper & Row
- 5) Hollandaise May Top This
- 7) Reveals
- 9) Seek One's Favor
- 11) Charming Desk Style
- 13) Potatoes _____ (French Dish)
- 15) WWII Code Language
- 17) Soup Server
- 19) A Roadster Usually Has Two

DOWN

- 2) Sweeps Week Focus
- 4) Italian Peak
- 6) Totally In Appropriate
- 8) Less Looney
- 10) Drawing Something With Force
- 12) Picnic Salad
- 14) Christmas Scene
- 16) _____ Lama
- 18) Belittle
- 20) Fit _____ Tied

Across: 1) Sour Cream 3) Edit 5) Asparagus 7) Exposes 9) Court 11) Rolltop 13) Lyonnaise 15) Navajo 17) Ladle 19) Seats **Down:** 2) Ratings 4) Alp 6) Way Out Of Line 8) Saner 10) Tug 12) Slaw 14) Nativity 16) Dalai 18) Disparage 20) To Be

Moe Harrington and The White Chapel Band



OUR ROSE ELLA'S COMIN HOME
FLOWERS AND ASHES
DOWN IN THE DEERFIELD VALLEY
I CAN'T FACE YOUR MEMORY ALONE



THE ROAD UP THIS MOUNTAIN



THE LAND THAT I CALL HOME



MY OLD GREEN MOUNTAIN HOME
SNOW WHITE CHAPEL
MY FOLKS ARE HERE BESIDE ME
ON THE TRAIL OF THE OLD CORDUROY



Art Group with Vermont Arts Exchange and Bennington School



Valentines Day Dance

Sunday, February 14, 2016

1:30PM to 2:30PM

Location: Patriot Hall



Music By: Cat Bird Trio
Featuring: Dr. Peter King



Volunteers Needed

Shopping Trip Companion
(with our transportation)

Bingo Helper

Off Campus Event Companion

In House Event Helper

And More!

If you have a skill you would like to share with our Veterans, please let us know.

For more information about our Volunteer Program, please call :

Michele Burgess at 447- 6520

Dedicate some time to a Veteran. It's a rewarding experience.

Valor Presents:

North Korea

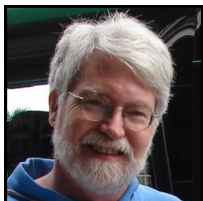
By: Sam Crane



Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 2:00 PM

Located in Patriot Hall

Open to the Community



Sam Crane, Chair of the Political Science Department at Williams College has taught contemporary Chinese politics and ancient Chinese philosophy since 1989. This past summer he taught at Renmin University in Beijing.

Just For Laughs.....

The child and his mother:

A curious child asked his mother: "Mommy, why are some of your hairs turning grey?"

The mother tried to use this occasion to teach her child: "It is because of you, dear. Every bad action of yours will turn one of my hairs grey!"

The child replied innocently: "Now I know why grandmother has only grey hairs on her head."



Congratulations VVH Staff Such an Amazing Accomplishment

January 28, 2016

To whom it may concern,

Over the course of the last twelve months, **Pinnacle Quality Insight**, a nationally recognized customer satisfaction firm, has interviewed the customers of Vermont Veterans Home regarding their satisfaction levels.

Customers were asked to evaluate several aspects of their received services. From the results of these interviews, Pinnacle has determined that Vermont Veterans Home has qualified for a **Pinnacle Customer Experience Award™** in the following service areas:

**Nursing Care
Combined Average
Recommend to Others
Individual Needs**

**Response to Problems
Overall Satisfaction
Quality of Food**

**Safety and Security
Dignity and Respect
Cleanliness**

The Customer Experience Award™ is awarded to care providers who have **achieved best-in-class** customer satisfaction standards within their peer group.

Pinnacle congratulates the staff of Vermont Veterans Home for achieving this honor.

Chris Magleby, CEO
Pinnacle Quality Insight

First Snowfall of the Season January 29, 2016



Photos By: Mary Ryan